

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

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R 220934Z JUN 78

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1069

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS HONG KONG 8002

DEPT PASS S.B. NEMIROW, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE,
MARAD, USDOC, WASHDC
FROM SOMECK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, HK

SUBJECT: PFEL

1. BARGES: ON TWENTY-FIRST CONDUCTED CURSORY INSPECTION BARGES
AT TWO SITES MENTIONED IN PREVIOUS TELEXES (JUNKBAY AND KWUN TONG).
MOST APPEARED IN POOR CONDITION PARTICULARLY THE FIBREGLASS WHICH
ARE HOLED, PEELING AND LEAKING. MANY OF THE STEEL ARE RUSTING
EXTENSIVELY.

2. ALTHOUGH OPINIONS OF AUTHORITIES HERE VARY, THERE IS DISTINCT
POSSIBILITY THAT BARGES IN JUNKBAY COULD BECOME ADRIFT IN EVENT
OF TYPHOON (TYPHOON SEASON STARTS THIS MONTH) IN WHICH CASE BARGES
COULD BECOME SERIOUS THREAT TO NAVIGATION. BARGES IN KWUN TONG
ARE PROTECTED FROM DRIFTING TO SOME DEGREE BY BREAKWATERS AND
THE RUNWAY FOR KAI TAK AIRPORT.

3. THE TWO BARGES SLATED FOR SCRAPPING HAVE NOT BEEN SCRAPPED
YET DUE TO NON RECEIPT OF FUNDS. TOTAL AMOUNT DUE FOR STORAGE
AND FUTURE SCRAPPING OF TWO BARGES AS OF 30 JUNE IS HK\$182,476.

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4. THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION OF INTERESTS BY ANYONE TO
PURCHASE ANY FIBREGLASS BARGES. SOME SCRAP DEALERS HAVE INFORMALLY
OFFERED HK\$25,000 EACH FOR SOME OF THE STEEL BARGES. THE
SINGAPORE OFFICE OF GRAN COLOMBIANA HAS REPORTEDLY RECOMMENDED
TO HIS OFFICE IN BOGOTA THAT SOME BARGES COULD BE USED
TO RELIEVE PORT CONGESTION IN BUENAVENTURA, BUT ANY POSSIBILITY
OF SALE FOR THIS PURPOSE WOULD SEEM REMOTE.

5. BOXES: THERE ARE 75 BOXES (INCLUDING REEFER) OWNED BY PFEL PRESENTLY IN HONG KONG. THERE ARE 28 ADDITIONAL PFEL OWNED ENROUTE FROM OSAKA BY FEEDER. COST OF STORAGE IS HK\$18 EACH/DAY. HOWEVER, TERMINAL WHERE BOXES ARE STORED IS REQUESTING THEIR REMOVAL. ALL LEASED BOXES HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO OWNERS.

6. FUNDS: OUTSTANDING AMOUNT OWED THROUGHOUT HONG KONG IS AROUND US\$100,000. AN ADDITIONAL US\$45,000 OUTSTANDING REPRESENTS BOND POSTED WHEN JAPAN BEAR ARRESTED HONG KONG ON FIFTH BY SHIPPERS FROM BUSAN AND SINGAPORE.
SHOESMITH

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